

CDC Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) and Inclusion of Accreditation-Related Language

In October 2012, CDC began using a standardized template that provided consistent language and formatting for all new nonresearch, domestic funding opportunity announcements (FOAs), which are now being referred to as Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). The NOFO template includes language related to applicants from state, tribal, local, or territorial governments and the ability to use funds to seek or maintain national public health accreditation, so long as it aligns with the intent and statutory authorities of the NOFO.

What does the accreditation-related language look like and where can it be found?

Organizational Capacity Statement — Some NOFOs include the following language in the guidance that asks applicants to describe their organizational capacity:

[A]pplicants may describe their current status in applying for public health department accreditation or evidence of accreditation. Information on accreditation may be found at <http://www.phaboard.org>.

Budget Narrative Guidance — The following language is included in the budget narrative sections of NOFOs.

If applicable and consistent with the stated cited statutory authority, applicant entities may use funds for activities as they relate to the intent of this NOFO to meet national standards or seek health department accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (see: www.phaboard.org). Applicant entities include state, local, territorial governments (including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), or their bona fide agents, political subdivisions of states (in consultation with states), federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribal governments, and American Indian or Alaska Native tribally designated organizations. Activities include those that enable a public health organization to deliver public health services such as activities that ensure a capable and qualified workforce, up-to-date information systems, and the capability to assess and respond to public health needs. Use of these funds must focus on achieving a minimum of one national standard that supports the intent of the NOFO. Proposed activities must be included in the budget narrative and must indicate which standards will be addressed.

Glossary — For any NOFOs that include language related to Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation, PHAB is generally included in the glossary.

Public Health Accreditation Board: PHAB is the national accrediting organization for public health departments. A nonprofit organization, PHAB is dedicated to advancing the continuous quality improvement of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments by advancing the quality and performance of all public health departments in the United States through national public health department accreditation.



Which NOFOs include this language?

This accreditation-related language is pertinent to nonresearch, domestic funding opportunities released since October 2012. An example of how this language looks can be found within the following FY15 grant opportunity: “Environmental Health Services Support for Public Health Drinking Water Programs to Reduce Drinking Water Exposures” ([CDC-RFA-EH15-1507](#)). Accreditation-related language is found in both the organizational capacity and budget narrative sections.

Where do I find this language in new NOFOs?

All new NOFOs are released and made available on <http://grants.gov>. Look at the sections mentioned above to see if the accreditation-related language is included in a new NOFO. If it is included, health department applicants might want to explore options for supporting accreditation-readiness activities that are also well-aligned with the intent of the NOFO.

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